

### How will the act be enforced?

The Columbus Health Department is responsible for enforcement of the Smokefree Indoor Air Act. Staff will respond to reports of violations called in to the hotline, 614-724-4AIR (4247).

### How can I report a violation?

Employees and the public may confidentially report violations of the ordinance to the Columbus Health Department by calling the hotline, 614-724-4AIR (4247), or through the Department website at [www.cmhhealth.org](http://www.cmhhealth.org).

### Should signs be posted?

Yes. "No Smoking" signs must be prominently posted and maintained where smoking is prohibited. These signs should be placed specifically at all building entrances.

### What are the penalties?

Businesses can face a penalty of up to \$150 for each violation.

### How can I find more information?

For more information about the Smokefree Indoor Air Act, call 724-4AIR (4247). You can also get information at the Columbus Health Department website: [www.cmhhealth.org](http://www.cmhhealth.org)

### Where can I get information to quit smoking?

If you smoke and want to quit, call the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line at 800-934-4840.



Columbus Health Department  
Environmental Health Division  
240 Parsons Ave  
Columbus, OH 43215

## *A Guide for Businesses, Restaurants & Bars to Columbus'*



## Clearing the Air of Secondhand Smoke: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions



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240 Parsons Ave  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[www.cmhhealth.org](http://www.cmhhealth.org)  
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# Smokefree Indoor Air Act

Effective November 3rd, 2004, the Smokefree Indoor Air Act (City Code Title 7 Chapter 715) prohibits smoking in virtually all workplaces, including restaurants and bars in the City of Columbus. The ordinance reflects the city's commitment to ensuring that all workers and patrons are protected from the dangers of secondhand smoke. Read on to learn more about the new ordinance.

## What is secondhand smoke?

Also called environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) secondhand smoke is a mixture of the smoke given off by the burning end of a cigarette, pipe or cigar, and the smoke exhaled from the lungs of smokers. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 substances, 43 of which are known to cause cancer in humans or animals and many of which are strong irritants. The EPA estimates that secondhand smoke causes up to 62,000 deaths each year among nonsmokers in

the United States. An estimated 300,000 children nationwide develop respiratory infections each year as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke, with approximately 15,000 of these children hospitalized due to their infections. And, exposure to secondhand smoke is a primary trigger for asthma.

## What does the act require me to do?

Beginning November 3rd, 2004, you may not allow smoking at your establishment. You must inform customers who are smoking that smoking is not permitted indoors. The Smokefree Indoor Air Act also requires:

- Posting of "No Smoking" signs at all facility entrances
- Elimination of ash trays and other smoking receptacles
- Adoption and posting of a facility smoking policy

## Can I provide a smoking break room for my employees?

No. Smoking is prohibited in all areas of a building.

## What about smoking in an outdoor section of a restaurant or bar?

Smoking is permitted in an outdoor patio area if the patio fits the definition contained in the ordinance. The ordinance says a patio is an area that is either: 1) Enclosed by a roof or overhead covering with no more than two walls or side coverings, or 2) Has no roof or overhead covering regardless of the number of walls or side coverings.

## Are there any places where smoking is permitted?

Yes. Along with outdoor patios that are exempt, retail tobacco stores may also permit smoking, and "private clubs" that hold a valid D-4 liquor permit (if alcohol is served on the premise) may also allow smoking, as long as no nonmembers are present. Hotels may permit smoking also, as long as the designated smoking rooms are less than 20% of the total number of rooms in the building.

## What should I do if customers insist on smoking?

You or your staff should remind them of the Act and you may explain that they must step outside to smoke. If a customer refuses to comply with the Act, follow your business' normal procedure for dealing with unruly customers.